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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	09/889,267
	Filing Date	January 17, 2002
	First Named Inventor	Ruelle, Jean-Louis
	Group Art Unit	1645
	Examiner Name	Baskar, P.
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	BM45351

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Teresa O. Bittenbender, Reg. # 47,425
Signature	<i>Teresa O. Bittenbender</i>
Date	<i>December 2, 2002</i>

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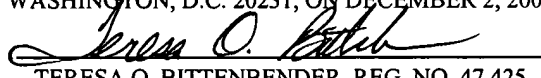
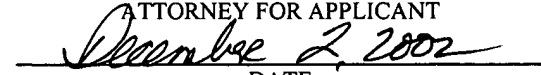
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Serial No.: 09/889,267  
Group Art Unit: 1645



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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Ruelle, Jean-Louis  
Serial No.: 09/889,267  
Filed: January 17, 2002  
For: Neisseria Meningitidis Antigen

Group Art Unit No.: 1645  
Examiner: Baskar, P.

Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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12/13/02

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Sir:

This Response to Restriction Requirement and Preliminary Amendment (herein after referred to as "Response and Amendment") is responsive to the Office Communication mailed November 21, 2002 (Paper No. 7) (herein referred to as "Office Action"). Applicants respectfully request entry of this Response and Preliminary Amendment.

This Response and Preliminary Amendment is timely filed. Should this Response and Amendment not be considered timely filed, Applicants hereby request a retroactive extension of time to file for the number of months required to maintain pendency of the Application. If an Extension is deemed necessary, please consider this Paper to comprise a Petition for such an Extension and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0258 for the associated fees.

**Remarks**

Claims 25-49 were pending. Claims 25-49 were subject to a five (5) way Restriction